

# BENT RIM BUGLE



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# FESTINA™ WATCHES

## Championship Points Series Schedule

**April 16**

www.tailwind.net

**Yankee Springs / Deep Lake Time Trial**

Deep Lake Campground/Tailwind Ent. (248) 634-6178

**August 13**

www.tailwind.net

**Big M Cross-Country**

Manistee, MI/Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

**May 7**

www.tailwind.net

**Fort Custer Stampede Cross-Country**

Augusta, MI/Mike Needham (616) 731-4078

**August 27**

www.tailwind.net

**Duane Chambers Memorial Fort Custer Time Trial**

Augusta, MI/Mike Needham (616) 731-4078

**May 21**

**Addison Oaks Spring Classic Cross-Country**

Leonard, MI/Oakland County Park (248) 858-4647

**September 10**

www.tailwind.net

**Stoney Creek Cross-Country**

Stoney Creek, MI/Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

**June 18**

www.tailwind.net

**Ruby Campground Cross-Country**

Port Huron, MI/Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

**September 17**

**Addison Oaks Fall Classic Cross-Country**

Leonard, MI/Oakland County Park (248) 858-4647

**July 9**

www.funpromotions.com

**Pando Challenge Cross-Country**

Pando Ski, Belding MI/Fun Promotions (616) 453-4245

**September 30**

www.iceman.com

**Glacier Gorge Cross-Country (AMBC)**

Gaylord, MI/Iceman Promotions (231) 922-5926

**July 16**

www.tailwind.net

**Bloomer Park Cross-Country**

Rochester, MI/Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

**October 22**

www.funpromotions.com

**Cannonsburg Challenge Cross-Country**

Cannonsburg MI/Fun Promotions (616) 453-4245



### New Classes!

Master Elite - 35 and up age group

Single Speed-no age groups-lots of fun!

### October 29

Season Finale!

Gravity Brothers

(602) 926-4009

**Garland Hammer X-Country / Cactus Cup™**

Lewiston MI/(517) 786-2211 ext.1313

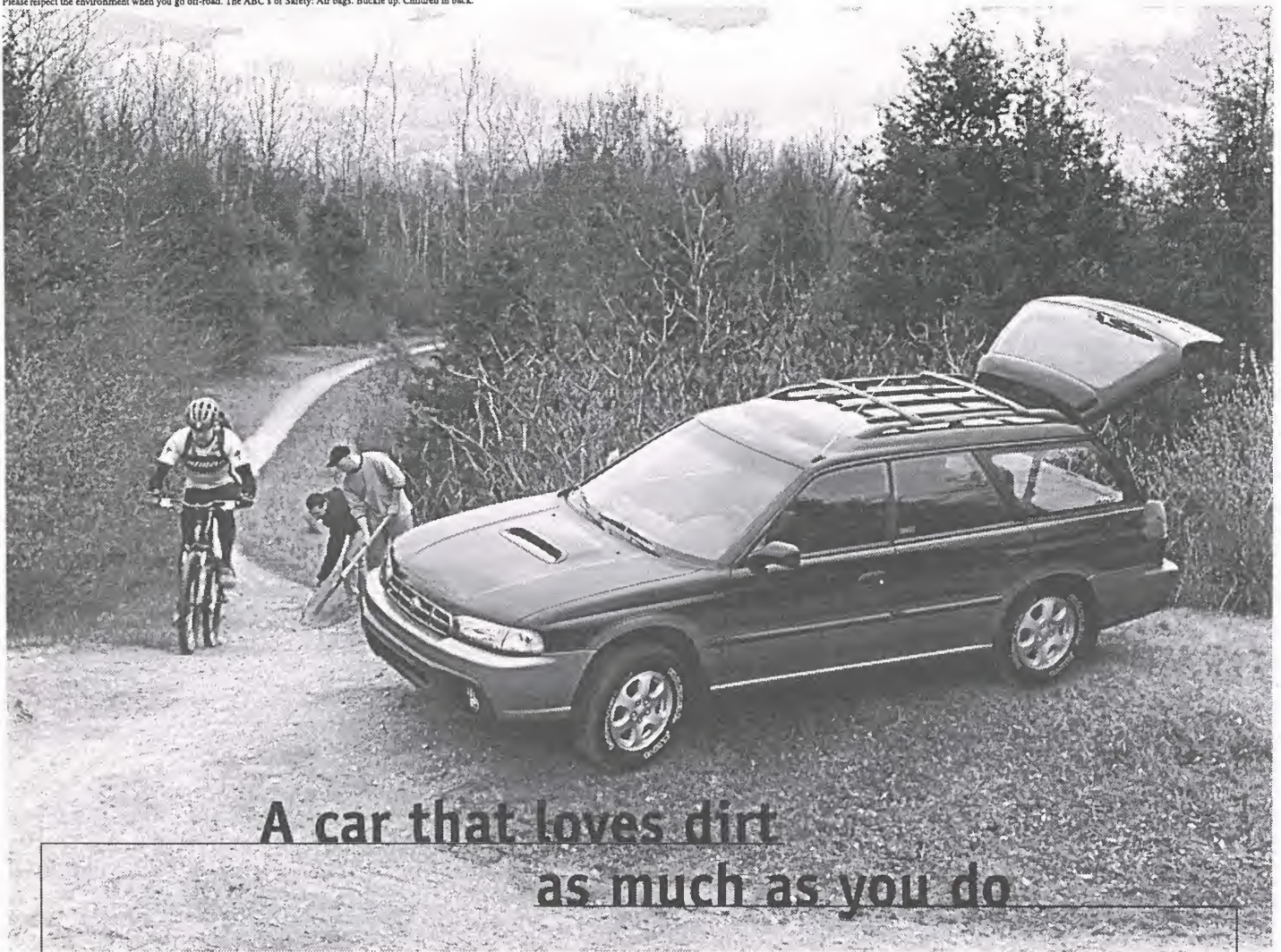
You do not have to be an MMBA member to ride in any of the races listed.

However, membership/race tabulation fee is required to be in the points series.

Always check with promoter for information, current start times, race applications, preregistration dates and date of events. See MMBA CPS rules for eligibility (Feb. 2000). All dates on public properties are subject to land manager considerations and it is up to the rider to make sure that times and dates are current and correct. Preregistration dates are determined by individual promoters and it is up to the rider to obtain current and correct preregistration dates from each promoter. It is highly recommended that you renew your membership in MMBA and pay the \$5.00 tabulation fee prior to the first race you want to count in the MMBA Festina CPS, regardless of when your current membership expires. Only your best results from half the races + one will be counted for the series - contact the MMBA for a complete set of official rules.

Name _____	Phone _____	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>
Address _____	City _____	Individual \$22.00
State _____ Zip _____	E-mail _____	Family \$27.50
Chapter Affiliation / ___ New Member ___ Renewal		Patron (Free-Tshirt) \$50.00
◇Holly/Flint ◇Southwest ◇Northwest & UP		Benefactor (2 Free T-Shirts) \$100.00
◇Northeast ◇Potawatomi ◇Western		<b>BIKE SHOPS</b>
◇Pontiac Lk. ◇Southeast ◇Mid-State		Regular \$110.00
◇Check ◇Charge ◇New Address		Patron (Free-Tshirt) \$250.00
Name on Card _____		Benefactor (2 Free T-Shirts) \$500.00
Account # _____ Exp. _____		MMBA Point Series Entry(For Racers Only)
Signature _____		add \$5.00 per-rider / Age(s) _____
Checks Payable to MMBA / Mail to: MMBA		Name(s) _____
4217 Highland Rd. Box 268 Waterford, MI 48328		M / F Date of Birth _____
Sign up on the web: www.mmba.org / Surf it for latest results, events, news, and activities!		Class: Beginner / Sport / Expert / Elite

The MMBA is a charitable nonprofit organization tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by the IRS only.



## A car that loves dirt as much as you do



With the Subaru Outback® there's no better way to get to your favorite trailhead. Whether it's a trail care day or an evening spin, we understand the International Mountain Biking Association's passion for keeping your wheels in the dirt. So, if you love to get your hands dirty as much as we do – contact your local chapter of the MMBA to learn how you can help care for existing paths and, whenever appropriate, build new ones. To get all the dirt on The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive stop by your nearest Subaru dealer or dig into our website at [www.subaru.com](http://www.subaru.com).

**SUBARU** 

*The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive®*

# BENT RIM BUGLE

Publication Director  
Dwain Abramowski  
Editorial Assistance

Christina - As always thank you.  
Contributing Writers/Editors/Info  
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Scott, Carol Johnston, Rick Jerrell

Special Thanks to:  
Christina, Dan Clark, Lisa Lazaroff  
Contributing Graphics/Artwork  
Dan Clark/Dwain/Lisa Lazaroff  
Poto Chapter For cover art

Music  
Vivaldi/Beatles

Materials provided by a limited universe  
with unlimited potential - Use them wisely.

This mag. is printed on recycled paper  
"...a bike in the garage is safe and clean, but  
that's not what a bike is for..." Variation of a  
saying by Grace Murray Hopper  
Michigan Mountain Biking Association  
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Robert Hurley / Potawatomi 248.865.5016  
Todd Scott / Southeast 248.288.3753  
Mike Needham / Southwest 616.731.4078

Mart Jones contributed photos and photos are not returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306. The BRB provides free classified ads to MMBA members and advertising space to shops and manufacturer members at reduced rates. For deadlines and rates contact the address/e-mail/web site above or call 616-785-0120.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, DNR, Forest Service, MMBA members, dealers and/or sponsors. All articles may be edited a little or a lot...it's mountain biking not world hunger...copyright March 2000 all rights reserved....and all that...but mostly and "clearly the most unfortunate people are those who must do the same thing over and over again, every minute, or perhaps twenty to the minute. They deserve the shortest hours and the highest pay." John Galbraith

This zine was established in 1986 by:

Craig Stutsky, Bonnie Alsum and Steve Pruett.

## Chapter Chatter

It's Spring, and we're all thinking of getting out on the trails, meeting new friends, and having fun with our favorite sport!

Now's your chance to help get the trails in shape for another season, too! Here's what's going on across the state:

## Southeast Chapter

April is cycling month at REI. Come and visit the Southeast Chapter booth at the Northville REI store (Haggerty Rd. and Seven Mile Rd.) on



April 8 and 9! How about this for a membership perk? Show proof of your membership at any Eastern Mountain Sports store on Thursday, April 27 and receive 20% off of any purchase.

Upcoming trail maintenance dates include:

Stoney Creek Metropark (West Branch Parking Lot F), April 2, 10:00 a.m.

Maybury State Park (Beck Rd. South of 8 Mile Rd.), April 9, 10:00 a.m.

Island Lake St. Rec. Area (Kensington Rd. off of I-96), April 16, 10:00 a.m.

Bald Mountain St. Rec. Area (Predmore Rd. and Harmon Rd.), May 7, 10:00 a.m.

Novi Tree Farm (S. Lake Shore Dr., Walled Lake), May 14, 10:00 a.m.

In March, Peg Gutmann, Jason Jones and myself (Todd Scott) met with Dan Duncan, Chief Planner for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA). We discussed their future plans for mountain biking in the Metroparks.

First, they are very pleased with what we've done at Stony Creek. Second, three of the top five most requested items from Metropark users are trails. (Keep those requests coming!) Third, with the advancing sprawl and quickly disappearing green space, the Metroparks are being deluged with requests for small municipal park projects, e.g. soccer fields, baseball diamonds, etc. Fourth, the



recent flap over the Metropark deer cull has made the HCMA board reluctant to move forward very quickly on park projects. There has been a lot of public comment that the parks should remain more in their natural state. We expressed to Dan that the minimalist design and small impact of well-designed mountain bike trails can fit in this more natural scenario. He agreed, however the board and the general public still have the impression of the "Mountain Dew" kid.

Finally, we agreed to meet annually to discuss mountain biking plans within the Metroparks. We're all hoping in a year or two, things may settle down and we can take what we've done at Stony Creek and transfer it to another Metropark.

BTW, I asked Dan about the proposed trail connecting Brighton State Recreation Area and Island Lake. The proposal hasn't been officially released, but Dan did tell us their plans. The proposed trail would run through the Huron Meadows Metropark. The HCMA is pushing Livingston County to pave Maltby Road on the north park border. When that is done, the park would close Hammel road (which runs through the park) to motorized traffic and use the road bed for the trail. For more information on this proposed pathway, check the Greenway Collaborative website at

<http://www.greenwaycollab.com/>

## Western Chapter

On Saturday, April 15, the Western Chapter will hold a time trial event at Yankee Springs Rec. Area! Volunteers are also needed for the event. Please contact John Haffenden at [Johnhaff@excite.com](mailto:Johnhaff@excite.com) or call 616-897-2752 for all of the details.

Upcoming trail maintenance dates include:  
Yankee Springs (Middelville), March 26, 11:00 a.m. (John 616-897-2752)  
Owasippe April 2, 11:00 a.m. (Chris 616-844-9224)

(CC cont. next pg.)

## MMBA Responsibility Code

- \*Yield the right of way.
- \*Control your speed and pass with care.
- \*Give warning well in advance when overtaking horses and hikers. If necessary, stand off to one side to let oncoming horses go by, and talk to riders as they pass.
- \*Stay on designated roads and trails.
- \*Don't disturb wildlife or livestock.
- \*Pack out litter.
- \*Respect property - minimize impact by avoiding muddy trails, excessive braking, or crosscutting switchbacks.
- \*Know local rules.
- \*Plan ahead.
- \*When possible, never ride alone, or at least let someone know where you plan to go.

*Know The Code.  
Courtesy Saves  
Trails!  
And, Everyone  
has more fun!*

(CC cont. from last page)

Bass River (Allendale), April 23, 11:00 a.m. (Bradley 616-785-3258)  
Cannonsburg St. Game Area May 21, 11:00 a.m. (Dave 616-874-7875)

### Poto Chapter

The Poto Chapter will hold elections at their first 2000 meeting, on March 29. Contact Lauren Hurley at 248-865-5016 or email Becx21998@aol.com.

Join the Poto Chapter on their Thursday night rides, beginning April 20!

### Southwest Chapter

The Southwest Chapter meets for weekly evening rides at Ft. Custer State Park all year long! Meet them at 6:30 p.m. any Thursday (call for start date) at the trailhead. "Neither rain nor snow nor dark of night shall keep them from their appointed task".

Monthly chapter meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30p.m. Meetings will take place at the Ft. Custer Eagle Lake Pavillion, unless otherwise specified in the Chapter updates.

There are lots of events scheduled for Fort Custer this year! The Fort Custer Stampede XC Race is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th, the annual dirtstock Festival is August 25-27, and the Duane Chambers Memorial MMBA Time Trial Race will be held on August 27th.

In addition, the Southwest Chapter hopes to get DNR approval to build a new pavilion at the Ft. Custer trailhead in memory of Duane Chambers, a 21 year old avid racer and chapter member who was recently taken from us in an auto accident.

(Chatter continued on pg. 22)

A. KRAUTHHEIM  
MUSKEGON, MI  
(616) 733-1966

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COLOMA, MI  
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BEST TIME  
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## FESTINA™ WATCHES

Join us as we celebrate the 2000 Festina MMBA CPS races starting this spring for your chance to get one of the coolest watches on the trail - Festina.

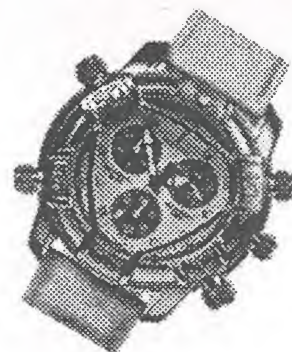
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CLINTON TWP., MI  
(810) 263-7700

## Big Ring Ale Great Taste-Great Package

The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) celebrates the long awaited arrival of Big Ring Ale. "This is just another one of the many MMBA projects and programs that we've implemented," says Dwain Abramowski, Executive Director of the MMBA, "to help fund the charitable programs and ongoing trail care and development activities of the MMBA. The success of the MMBA hinges on resource development to support our Volunteers and pay for the expenses of running a large nonprofit corporation such as the MMBA. The opportunity to license our name to a unique product, like Big Ring Ale, has opened another much needed source of funding due to the slow development of any comprehensive/long term support from funding sources within the philanthropic portion of the corporate/institutional cycling community."

**Big Ring Ale is a smooth dark ale produced by the Michigan Brewing Company of Webberville, Michigan, for the MMBA.** "It's a full-bodied, dark brew ale with hints of nutty and bready flavors rounded with caramel sweetness," explains Bobby Mason, owner of the Michigan Brewing Company. "Michigan Brewing Company is a combination of American entrepreneur spirit and expertise," says Mason, "no-restaurant, no-TV, no game room, just great beer and friendly service."

"We hope if you enjoy a good tasting hand-crafted ale, you'll give Big Ring Ale a try. It is the kind of beer that one drinks for the taste, not quantity." Abramowski explained, "It comes uniquely packaged as a 4-pack, in the first of it's kind, recyclable containers. You won't believe the convenience of this new type of packaging of great tasting beer."

Big Ring Ale is just another in a line of unique products that the MMBA has developed to help meet its funding resource needs, other products include MMBA JAVA, a smooth, dark-rich custom-roasted coffee, custom designed MMBA T-Shirts, embroidered hats and the unique MMBA Handbook, which contains all the latest trail and event activities taking place in 2000. Big Ring Ale can be ordered locally through your neighborhood retailer such as Merchant-a-Vino or Wholefoods in the Detroit/Ann Arbor area or you can pickup Big Ring Ale directly at the Michigan Brewing Company in Webberville (517) 521-3600. Special thanks to James Partridge for his counsel in setting up the formal relationship between the MMBA and Michigan Brewing Company and help with the registration of our logo.

*Oh, and it goes without saying if you're any kind of decent human being, don't drink and drive. Please drink in moderation.*



2582 M-52 N. Webberville, MI 48892  
517-521-3600  
[www.michiganbrewing.com](http://www.michiganbrewing.com)

### BIG RING ALE

#### Where to find it:

**Market Bella Vita**  
237 West fulton  
Grand Rapids MI  
616-356-1311

**Holiday Market**  
520 South Lilley  
Road, Canton, MI  
734-844-2200

**Holiday Market**  
1203 S. Main Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-1414

**Merchant of Vino**  
Plymouth Road  
Ann Arbor, MI  
734-769-0900

**Whole Foods**  
Stadium Street  
Ann Arbor, MI  
734-971-3366

New this year!  
CPS Timetrial at  
Fort Custer as a  
part of dirtstock...

# 2000 dirtstock

August 25, 26 & 27  
Look for an  
application at:  
[www.mmba.org](http://www.mmba.org)  
soon and in the  
next  
issues of the  
Bent Rim Bugle!



Dirt's fun  
but,  
MMBA Java  
tastes great!



**\*2 pounds of custom roasted  
coffee \$15.00 plus S&H\***  
**\*5 pounds of custom roasted  
coffee \$30.00 plus S&H**

Freshness is a big concern when dealing with perishable items. For this reason the company that supplies our custom roasted coffee does not warehouse the MMBA blend. Any coffee that is ordered, is roasted, packaged and shipped within days. That means you are receiving the absolute freshest coffee. The custom MMBA coffee is roasted in small batches in European PROBAT roasters. All of the roasts are done under close supervision. Each and every roast brings out the coffee's brilliant and unique flavors.

**Address Information:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quantity:** \_\_\_\_\_ **2lbs.** \_\_\_\_\_ **5lbs.** \_\_\_\_\_

**S&H \$3.00 per 2lbs. / \$5.00 per 5lbs.....\$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: MMBA Coffee, P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306**

**Visa/Master Card (circle one):**

**Account #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp.Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*MMBA Java comes as whole beans, fresh and ready to be ground. As of Oct. 1 there will be a new lower price on the 2lb size of MMBA Java. The 5lb size is still your best price. Enjoy!

Also available  
on the web at:  
[www.mmba.org](http://www.mmba.org)

## MMBA Membership Director Needed

After many years of service, Robin Scurr, the MMBA's current Membership Director, would like to step down. Robin has served the membership needs of the MMBA with the highest level of accuracy and proficiency. He has attended most all board meetings and has helped make MMBA Annual meeting a success. His high attention to detail at the state level has made the MMBA a better organization each year. **The MMBA would like to extend the most sincerest thanks to Robin for his steadfast and dependable service. You will be missed!**

Robin has told the MMBA board that he will assist in educating the new MMBA Membership Director in fulfilling the responsibilities of the MMBA's membership needs and using the MMBA's data base program.

Membership Director Responsibilities: Keep, maintain and update new MMBA membership/produce mailing labels for BRB, Chapters, Board Needs, mailings, etc./attend quarterly board meetings/provide board with membership reports, etc. **For further information and nominations contact the MMBA at: [gommaba@aol.com](mailto:gommaba@aol.com)/616-785-0120 or contact Robin, our current director at: [RScurr@aol.com](mailto:RScurr@aol.com)**

### \*\*\*\*MMBA Java Special\*\*\*\*

The MMBA had a large amount of MMBA Java roasted to sell at the various shows and events in February (R.V. Show, MMBA Annual Meeting 2000, IMBA Summit-Austin, CABDA show in Chicago, etc.). We had to guess at the amount we would need to roast, as we did not know how much we would sell. The MMBA sold a lot of Java, but not all of it. So, for those of you who enjoy the MMBA Java, we have a special deal!

We have a few 5 pound bags of regular MMBA Java and several 2 pound bags of de-cafeinated Java left over and are selling them at a reduced cost to make room for more as the riding season begins and the demand for new orders of MMBA Java starts up again.

**Here's the deal:**

5 pounds - \$20.00 + \$5.00 S&H  
(That's \$10.00 off!)

2 pounds/de-cafeinated - \$10.00 + \$3.00 S&H  
(That's \$5.00 off!)

**Good only while supplies last!** Use the form above and note you want the "Show Deal".  
Thank you for your support!

# Silverdome R.V. Show & The MMBA

## A world of trailers meets the world of trails.....

**Did You See Us At The Dome?** The Silverdome that is. Thanks to the hard work of Patti Brehler and Andy Andersen of Prestige Cycles (Clinton Twp. MI), the MMBA, League of MI Cyclists and Rails-to-Trails of MI had a booth (a big, big booth) at the annual R.V. (Recreational Vehicle) Show at the Pontiac Silverdome from January 26 through January 30. There were estimates that the crowds

hit the 30,000 people mark, attending the show over the 5 day period. The MMBA informed, educated and attracted new organization members and generally just tried to get people excited about bicycling in Michigan. The joint project was dubbed, "Bicycle Michigan: Great Lakes-Great Rides!" Thanks to the Pontiac Lake, Northern, Holly Flint, Potawatomi, Southeast and Mid-state Chapters for their help at the booth! The MMBA took donations for shirts, coffee, candy, hats, mugs and handed out hundreds of MMBA applications and Bent Rim Bugles (BRB's). At the event Festina helped by giving away a watch each day of the show and Prestige Cycles gave away a mountain bike, Thank You Festina and Prestige!



*Great Lakes Great Rides! Great exposure for the MMBA and its many sponsors. The MMBA Subaru was of great interest to the thousands of R.V. show attendees. The bikes on top were courtesy of Prestige Cycle who have their own R.V. Bike shop (background).*



## Donating To The MMBA

Hey, are you making a killing on the stock market? Spending all your time riding and having fun? Over the last five years the stock market has proved it can happen and everyone wants to know how you did it.

If you don't want to give up your investing secrets, but would like to share your wealth, consider this option. If you have some very strong gains in your portfolio, you can easily use these

gains to benefit your riding time and share your good fortune with your favorite charity at the same time, with a gift of appreciated securities.

If you would like to make of gift of say \$500, \$1000 or \$5,000 to the MMBA in cash by selling the stock, a gift of appreciated securities could save you money instead of donating cash. **Here's a hypothetical example**, if you own say, 50 shares of a stock, which you purchased back in perhaps 1995 at a low cost of around \$400, and that stock has grown to be worth \$5000, you could sell it and donate the cash to a charity.

If you sold the stock and wrote a check to the MMBA, you would receive a charitable tax deduction for \$5000. However, you would also owe tax on the realized gains from your stock (the difference between the purchase and sale prices of the stock. The long-term gain on \$5000 would be roughly \$4,600 - check with your tax advisor to determine the exact amount). Which, if taxed at the 20% rate, would

cost you an additional \$900 or so in taxes, decreasing your charitable donation's net impact on your taxes.

Donating the appreciated stock to the MMBA instead of selling the stock and giving cash has some advantages. If you give the stock to the MMBA you still receive the charitable donation deduction for the full amount of the market value of the stock (in our hypothetical case above, \$5,000). But also, since you haven't sold the stock yourself, there are no taxable capital gains to report. Because the MMBA is a 501(c)3 organization, the MMBA could then sell the stock and receive the full market value without paying capital gains taxes and put 100% of your gift dollars to work.

Consult with your tax advisor or investment manager on how you can make the stock market's rise to mountainous heights mean a secure future of mountain biking trails in Michigan. Sharing the trail and sharing the wealth may go hand in hand.

Put Your Head In here!

Still only \$17.00\*  
Send check made out to the MMBA:  
MMBA T-Shirt P.O. Box 29  
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If your shop would like to sell shirts just call 616.785.0120

I think he rides better with his official MMBA shirt....

**MMBA**  
MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

Your official 2000 MMBA T-Shirt is here. This shirt displays the newly revised logo. It's cool. Order yours today!

You can also fax us your T-shirt order using Visa or MasterCard at 616-785-1940 (print clearly)  
Choose: Visa / Master Card  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include address so we know where to send it)

\*includes shipping

**CLASSIC**

**Two Great deals - two great ways to support the trail care needs of your Michigan Mountain Biking Association.**

Send check made out to the MMBA to:  
MMBA Hat  
P.O. Box 29  
Belmont, MI 49306

Still only \$18.00\*  
\* includes shipping

**MMBA**  
MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION  
www.mmba.org

**MMBA**  
STANDARD ISSUE

You can also fax us your hat order using Visa or MasterCard at 616-785-1940 (print clearly)  
Choose: Visa / Master Card  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include address so we know where to send it)

# MIMBA SHOP AND MANUFACTURER MEMBERS

IS YOUR SHOP HERE? THE SHOPS LISTED HERE CARE ABOUT WHERE YOU RIDE. DOES YOUR SHOP?



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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THE BICYCLE SHOP  
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(248)646-7565

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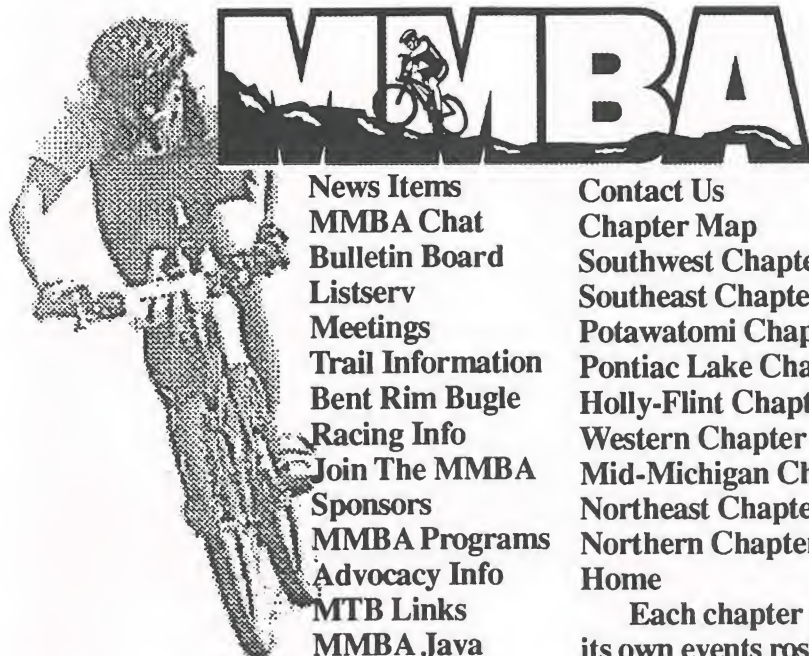
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 Home

Each chapter has its own events roster for the upcoming

season, as well as the Points-Series section of our site containing the race schedule for the year. Please refer to those sections of our Website for details, rides, trail maintenance work days, other activities at the chapter level and the races.

Our network of member-maintained trails is so extensive that we have dedicated an entire section of our Website to trails. These trails range in difficulty from easy to extremely technical so that everyone from beginners new to the sport, as well as experts can enjoy themselves, progress in their bike handling skills and always feel challenged.

# *enter: the mmba website!*

**If you've not been to the MMBA website in a while,** it has grown into an amazing wealth of information, of "Bill Gates" proportion. If you don't have or use a computer and know someone who has access to the web, ask them to give you a tour sometime. You'll be amazed.

There is info from each chapter, bulletin boards where information, questions and dirt activities are posted on a daily basis. There are current news items, an MMBA Chat room, a listserv, meetings list, Sponsor info and MTB Links and more - as is listed on the top of this page. All this information travels at the speed of light, literally! One easily gets the feeling that mountain bikes come with computers that connect to the web. It is amazing, and ten years ago when the MMBA was formed there were few out there who would have guessed that the trail might begin for many by surfing the web to [www.mmba.org](http://www.mmba.org). **The web has taken shape with the help of some very talented generous people, like Thomas Cray and Kevin Dupre.** Our membership list is also computerized and managed by the talents of Robin Scurr, our membership director (we are still

looking for a new membership director by the way). **Joseph Yannie, our MMBA CPS Director** also coordinates the names of well over 400 MMBA members who race in the points series. **Todd Scott takes care of our list-serve,** **Jason Jones** has coordinated efforts to develop, the CPS program, a bulletin board on the web, MMBA chat room and a classified ad section (and sponsor links, too). **Each chapter has a Volunteer** who takes care of updating chapter web pages and sites and all but one of the Statewide Board members are accessible via the web. All in all, the MMBA occupies a fairly impressive bit of cyber-space.

But as impressive as the MMBA is where electrons interface with the minds of human beings, the MMBA is much more than anything a website could ever represent. **The MMBA is nothing more or less than its Members.** All the organization, all the words, meetings, membership cards, contacts, letters, e-mails, postings, t-shirts, hats, sponsorships, advertisements, listing, paperwork, phone-calls and electrons speeding along at the speed of light are happening for one reason and one reason only - to coordinate the efforts of the "people"

who are the MMBA. Alone or separately all the "things" that people interact with when they encounter the MMBA are simply that, just "things".

The important point to all this is the fact that at times people see the MMBA through the "things" of the MMBA and forget what the MMBA really is. Sometimes the "things" that make up the MMBA have glitches and failings such as lost membership cards, web access problems, mis-directed phone calls, mis-directed flaming e-mails, wrong t-shirt sizes, blotched advertisements, etc. If we count on these "things" as the MMBA there will always be shortcomings. **However, if we look at the MMBA as Volunteers, racers and Chapter leaders you'll always be interacting with the "real" MMBA. You will find the reason all the "things" that surround the MMBA exist.**

At this 10th anniversary of the MMBA, a moment spent reflecting on all the "things" the MMBA has become, needs to be put to one side so one can see the "real" MMBA - your fellow members. The Volunteer working with you at an upcoming

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spring weekend trail care project, the racer you meet at one of the MMBA CPS events, the shops and sponsors who support the MMBA, and those who fill up the hall at the MMBA Annual Meeting each year. The MMBA started 10 years ago with people. People just like you, who cared enough to have built a pretty impressive "thing" we call an organization.

The MMBA website is fantastic and it will blow your hair back but it's the MMBA, the members, who are responsible for the fact that you can cover that "blown-back" hair with a helmet and head out on a trail. **Thank you to all of the members out there who have made the MMBA great from electrons to the dirt trail.**

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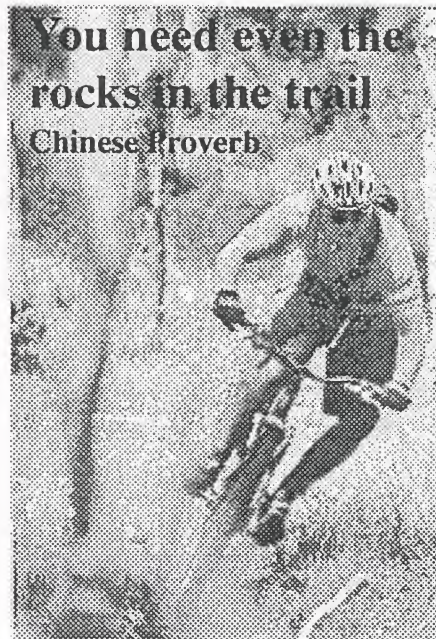
Remember MMBA Discounts on parts, Accessories, Apparel



It appears that the 2000 MMBA Festina Championship Points Series (CPS) will be getting some air time on the Outdoor Life Network (OLN).

Gravity Brothers, the promoters of the final race of the Festina MMBA CPS at Garland Resort (Cactus Cup North), have offered to provide some coverage of the CPS in their "Road to the Cactus Cup" show at the end of the 2000 season. This video could be used in the production of the show. So, look good racers! You may end up on the tube!

**You need even the  
rocks in the trail**  
Chinese Proverb



# Going from Multiple -Use .....to Multiple -Loss

The MMBA has long-pursued a non-exclusionary agenda when it comes to non-motorized trail use and access. This philosophy of multiuse has been present ever since the MMBA was formed 10 years ago. This position is rooted in our Board's recognition of the simple economic concepts of supply versus demand.

The Board has recognized that we have a limited or relatively "static" supply of public land available for recreational purposes in Michigan, and a lot of user groups within the general public who seek to use this land. When it comes to non-motorized trail recreation on these lands, supply versus demand becomes even more of an issue. **There is simply not enough available public recreational land in Michigan to carve out a quality trail for every type of non-motorized user.** If this were attempted, our public lands would be a "spaghetti factory" of paths with little room for nature — the very thing these trail users are looking for when they come to the trail. For this reason, every hiker, biker, equestrian, game hunter, mushroom hunter, orienteer, etc. must learn to share trail. **Sharing means user groups cooperate and collaborate on all trail issues, making every effort to preserve the trail recreational experience for a wide-range of trail users.** This is the heart of the multiuse philosophy.

Unfortunately, there are individuals and groups pushing Michigan land managers for a trail policy that begins with the concept of separate, or, exclusionary use. The adoption of such a policy would be detrimental to the interests of all Michigan non-motorized trail users for a number of reasons.

The philosophy of separate use immediately creates an administrative nightmare for land managers. They are faced with a myriad of users all demanding their fair share of trail to use. A land manager is then faced with the task of either creating trails for all

user groups, or, rationing trail out to various user groups. There are no other choices.

Since land managers are principally charged with being proper stewards for the environment, it is unlikely that they would be willing or able to create a spaghetti factory of trails with a limited land supply able to meet the demands of all trail user groups. Even if this level of trail creation was accomplished, would it provide the type of experience users would want on their trip to the trail? Do we want our last undeveloped forested tracts of land being cluttered with a sprawling spider's web of trail systems? If crowding out nature is the goal, why not just build condos on these lands and weave scenic wood chip paths in-between the units?

The more likely path that land managers would need to follow under a separate use philosophy leaves them with the downright scary administrative task of rationing out trails among user groups. How exactly would this be accomplished? **Do user groups draw straws in order to get trail?** Mushroom pickers win Highland R.A. and hikers win Maybury S.P.? Or is this task accomplished in relation to user group demand? I can see it now. Oops, sorry equestrians, a consultant study done for MDNR a few years back showed that equestrians represent a relatively small percentage of overall trail users in MDNR Parks and Rec Areas. It is going to be kind of hard to justify

equestrians having the lion's share of the trails at Southern Michigan's largest DNR Recreation Area, Waterloo. We'll have

to give that trail system to the hikers, who score higher on the list of frequent users. Oh yeah, bikers, you have those trails over at Yankee Springs R.A., so Fort Custer R.A. is going to be reserved for trail runners in the summer and xc skiers in the winter.

The MDNR Parks and Rec Bureau would probably have to substantially increase their budget just to undertake the task of administering the process of trail separation. Of course, then there is the whole issue of cost to enforce proper trail use. With the downsizing of MDNR dollar and labor resources in recent years, the separation and apportionment of trails seems pretty implausible.

**Does the concept of separate, exclusionary trails sound like a joke? Don't laugh.** On Friday, February 11th, the MDNR Parks and Recreation Bureau Stakeholders Group that Executive Director Dwain Abramowski and I sit on came inches from endorsing such a separate use policy - and, the process isn't over yet. The Michigan Horse Council (MHC) continues to push for a separate use philosophy, primarily on the grounds of perceived "safety" issues.

I know, many of you are probably thinking, "What safety issues?" - and you are thinking correctly. You see, as far as the MMBA can gather, there has never been a serious injury or death from a mountain bike/horse accident. In fact, we really can't seem to gather any substantiated or investigated data from MDNR Parks and Rec that such accidents have even occurred. However, the MHC disputes this, insisting that mountain bikes and equestrians using the same trails pose a serious

*(continued next page)*



**President's Corner**  
by  
**Jason Aric Jones**  
**MMBA President**

(continued from last page)

safety risk, asserting that dangerous incidents are commonplace on Michigan Park and Rec Area trails, but that they just go unreported. They even went as far as to give the MDNR and the Parks and Rec Trails Program Master Planning Stakeholder Group a series of their equations regarding mountain bike safe stopping distances. These equations calculate mountain bikers "racing" about the trail at 30 to 35 mph with horses calculated as trotting at a cool 15 mph. (Did you know the men's gold medalist in mountain biking at the 1996 Summer Olympics averaged 14.1 mph?) Based on their calculated rates of travel, the MHC figures that safe sight line distances of 3000 ft. (two-thirds of a mile!) are needed in order for riding stable equestrians and mountain bikers to use the same trail. If these equations were actually true, don't you think mountain biker trail related fatalities would be in the double figures each year in Michigan just like those in the firearms deer hunting and snowmobiler trail user groups are many times?

If you are like most frequent Parks and Rec trail users that I have spoken with, you probably chuckle at the factual absurdity of these assertions by the MHC. However, again I'll remind you to hold your laughter. The MHC is an organization with substantial presence, financial resources and connections. If you think that equestrians represent only a fraction of overall trail use, thus they really aren't much of a factor in influencing MDNR policy, think again. They are organized and on a mission to influence DNR policy. The mission they are on is purely exclusionary, and the policy they seek is one of separate use. As mentioned, this is an agenda that MDNR may be pressured into following as the threat of "safety issues", whether real or perceived, motivates a land manager to take action quicker than chum motivates a shark to bite. If this happens, Michigan Park and Rec Area trail users will be leaving the concept of multiple-use, and going toward the concept of multiple-loss.

## Pontiac Lake Trail Separation Proposal: Lessons Learned

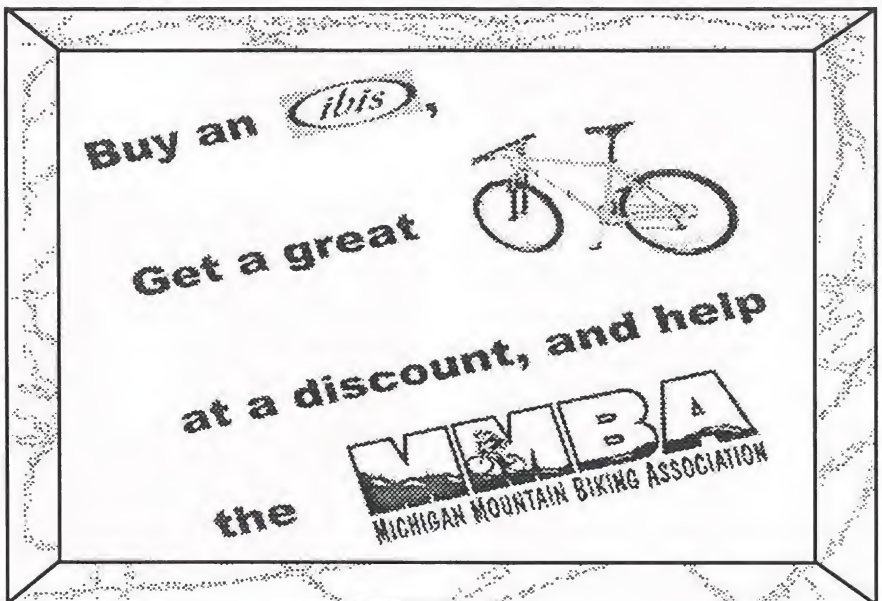
Many trail users have expressed some bewilderment over the MMBA acceptance of the MDNR's plan to have separate trails at Pontiac Lake when we generally advocate the concept of multiuse trails. Our thought process in accepting the MDNR's plan was borne out of the following two principals: 1.) consistent with our historical perspective, we wanted to work with land managers and other user groups in the cooperative/collaborative spirit of improving the trails for ALL users, and 2.) we felt that this proposal had no adverse impact for mountain bikers since it did not result in any material loss of aggregate trail mileage open to mountain biking at Pontiac Lake R.A. Although we had the best intentions, in retrospect, going along with this proposal to separate the equestrian and mountain bike trails may have been a choice that will come back to haunt all users.

Why? A precedent has now been set that MDNR may turn to as a model in planning trail systems at other Park and Rec Areas. This separate use precedent is dangerous for a number of reasons (as detailed in the article,

Going from Multiple-Use to Multiple Loss, in this issue of the Bent Rim Bugle).

So what is the plan of action going forward? We can only focus on the future, the past is done and gone. **In the future, the MMBA will continue to advocate multiple-use trail systems.** We must carefully assess the global implications of any separate, or exclusionary use policies before supporting them. **Any support of separate or exclusionary use must be rooted in facts, science, and studies. Before supporting any such separation, the MMBA will first advocate for enhanced trail user education and enforcement programs.** Such programs strengthen the viability of multiuse trail systems. It is important to note that at Pontiac Lake R.A., such programs were not attempted to any material degree by either trail user groups, or, the MDNR. Instead of stepping back and analyzing the facts, incidents, and situations regarding the perceptions of conflict at Pontiac Lake R.A., ALL parties from trail users up to MDNR, engaged in the support of a knee-jerk reaction: trail separation.

**Good land management policy is rooted in fact and science, not conjecture and knee-jerk greasing of the current squeaky wheel.** Let's all work together to make sure that policy mistakes aren't made in the future.



# Annual Meeting 2000

by Dwain Abramowski

Several hundred MMBA members, sponsors, and interested individuals ventured to Davisburg on February 5th, for the MMBA Annual Meeting 2000. This year's meeting was sponsored by **RockShox**. The highlights of the event were well attended including the Blizzard Blaster Ride (it was above zero this year) and the annual swap meet was wall to wall people. **Robert Linden's Tailwinds Roller Races** drew the largest crowd ever of competitors to compete against the clock and raise money for MMBA Annual Meeting expenses. There was also a new food menu this year that was a benefit activity for a local charity. All the MMBA chapters were represented and several had outstanding booths full of information and fun.

Those attending saw the premiere of the "offical" MMBA booth displaying MMBA Java (the best mountain biking coffee around), samples of the new MMBA Big Ring Ale, as well as our new logo on MMBA T-shirts (long and short sleeve) and hats. **To cheering fan clubs, both the Festina/MMBA Champion Points Series (CPS) winners and Wilderness Trail Bike/First Across the Finish Line Award (FAFLA) Volunteers** of the year stepped up on stage to receive their awards. **Joseph Yannie, our MMBA CPS Director** developed one of the coolest awards yet. It was a hightech cut out set of chainrings, which were presented to our MMBA racers mounted on an oak base designed and fashioned by our MMBA Treasurer, **Tom Nell** who has a talent with wood as well as numbers. The awards this year were a hit. The elite class men's and women's first place winners also recieved classic **Road-Warrior Watches** from Festina.

Volunteers of the years were presented with Wilderness Trail Bike seats and tires as well as other award items. All trail care Volunteers who put in 10 hours or more in trail care and/or development recieved a **tool kit from Park Tools**. Several racers put in 10 hours of trail care and recieved an award



*A crowd of several hundred MMBA members, Sponsors, Representatives and interested mountain bikers from all over Michigan met on Feb 6, 2000 for the MMBA Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation.*

*Below - The MMBA Swap Meet saw hundreds of individuals shop, swap, buy and trade bicycles, parts and accessories.*



*Below -One of the most special moments of this years MMBA Annual Meeting was the dedication of the Ed Berta First Across The Finish Line Awards.*

*Bottom - Winners of the RockShox 2000 MMBA Annual Meeting drawing (One MMBA Java Winner also listed), Mary Ann Martin, Brian Dooley, Greg King, Rich Murd, Jason Lummis, Gina Hug, Jody Koch*



Thank you to L.C. Scramlin, Springfield Oaks/Oalland County Parks, Pontiac Lake Chapter, Holly Flint Chapter for setup of the annual meeting. Thank you Volunteers Mark Weingartz, Christopher Weingartz and Paul Andres who volunteered at the MMBA display throughout the meeting and to all those Volunteers who didn't get a chance to write their names on the MMBA Annual Meeting Volunteers list. Thank You one and all!



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This jersey has been custom designed and sublimated by Italian cycling apparel company, Biemme, exclusively for the MMBA using Biemme's proprietary high-tech moisture wicking fabric. Color is a "blue fade" (darker blue at the top to lighter blue at the bottom) with black and white accents. Bella! Quantities are limited, so pre-order yours today. Delivery will take six to eight weeks as they are still being printed (hey, Italy is a long way away), but it will be well worth the wait. Pre-orders will ship first, so get that check in the mail! Jersey sizes run pretty "true" to normal s/m/l/xl/xll sizing.

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### Thank You RockShox MMBA Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation 2000



(Meeting continued from last page)  
from the FAFLA program also.

The highlight of the day was the dedication of the FAFLA program to the Ed Berta First Accross the Finish Line Awards. Ed Berta was from the Holly/Flint Chapter and tragically passed away during a road care day for the county on one of the roads that leads to the Holdridge Lakes Trail. Ed's wife and children were present to recieve the award. Ed was involved with Holly/Flint's board and was working on the development of Mountain Kid's program when he died. **He will be missed by all** and the re-dedication of the FAFLA in his name will be a fitting tribute to his memory.

Six lucky winners recieved new RockShox forks. Many other prizes were given away also, which were supplied by Dirt Rag Magazine, Crank Brothers, Festina, Tailwinds and many MMBA goodies including t-shirts, MMBA Java, hats and many other prizes. There was even a specail drawing for the children and many MMBA Volunteers walked away with a Biech candybar, part of the MMBA efforts to contribute to the resotration of the Biech House on Grand Island, a unique biking destination off the coast of Upper Michigan in Munising.

During the business portion of the annual meeting current information about the MMBA was shared with the membership by Tom Nell our MMBA treasurer, Robin Scurr our MMBA Membership Diretor and Jason Aric Jones your MMBA President. Yours truly also presented a speech highlighting the last 10 years of MMBA activities, challenges and a call to every mountain biker to reach new heights in the next ten years.

When you think about it there are not a lot of things that last ten years now days...

## TTC Thank You!

### Trails For Tomorrow Campaign Much Needed Donations Continue!

Thank you all, for your continuing vision and commitment towards making the Michigan Mountain Biking Association a stronger more effective organization in addressing the needs of development, care and protection of the trails and forests throughout Michigan. Your generosity will touch thousands of trail users throughout the year. - Thank you!

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Carl Winegar	Donald Fedrigo, Sr.	<b>Level 15.00</b>
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<b>\$50.00 Level</b>	Dennis Kennedy	Margo Cleminson
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Anonymous	<b>\$20.00 Level</b>	Mark White
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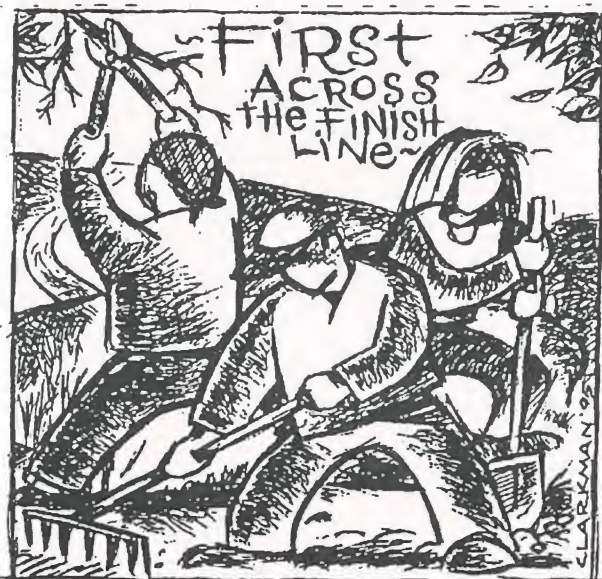


The MMBA has further advanced the cause of local trail advocacy with a new industry relationship, the MMBA has inked a new deal with Santa Rosa, California's Ibis Cycles, through which Ibis has become the official bicycle of the MMBA. In some ways it goes beyond mere sponsorship, and functions more as a manufacturer-dealer rep relationship. Ibis, will give a commission to the MMBA for all Michigan bike and accessory sales.

The MMBA website ([www.mmmba.org](http://www.mmmba.org)), in turn, will feature a link to Ibis Direct ([www.ibiscycles.com](http://www.ibiscycles.com)), as well as prominent promotions at the advocacy group's race series events and trail maintenance days and in the pages of the official newsletter/zine, the "Bent Rim Bugle."

The partnership, according to MMBA President Jason Aric Jones, will "take local advocacy to a new level. Trail creation and maintenance is a business. It's not just a club." And the MMBA is no stranger to creative fund-raising. In addition to the group's successful Big Ring Ale, MMBA Java, custom jerseys, shirts and hats, there are 5 major sponsors—Subaru, Festina, Dagger, RockShox and Patagonia—who are currently involved with the MMBA..

### Ed Berta FAFL Trail Care Program 2000



The MMBA is pleased to announce that outdoor clothing manufacturer, Patagonia, will be the title sponsor of the MMBA Ed Berta, First Across the Finish Line Trail Maintenance Series. The Ed Berta FAFL Series is a competitive event in which members of each of the MMBA's nine chapters participate in trail workdays, competing for total hours of trail work at ORGANIZED MMBA Ed Berta FAFL Trail Maintenance Events. Winners will be rewarded with product from Patagonia's Endurance Line. Top Finishers will be recognized during the 2001 MMBA Annual Meeting, Awards and Swap Meet, held the first Sunday in February 2001. "Working with Patagonia is a good match for the MMBA,"



according to Jason Aric Jones your MMBA President, "They (Patagonia) have a long history of supporting many great environmental causes and advocacy organizations. We are honored that they have chosen to work with us."

Another great thing about this competition is no matter where you finish in the Ed Berta FAFL series, everyone wins because of the charitable work done on the trails! Just come out and lend a hand, there's no training required, it's fun and you'll enjoy your next ride even more. See you on the trails!

# On Line all the time

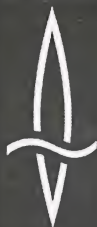
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and her own destiny... fanatical kayaker.

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**Centrifuge** ~ driveable, charging edges and slicey ends ~  
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Dagger's whitewater kayak artist **Marc Lyle** and **Team D** have  
created the *most aggressive*, advanced freestyle designs on the  
scene. *Looseness* and vertical capability have reached *dizzying*  
*heights* with this pair of planing-hull machines.



Ultrafuge



Centrifuge

photos by Charley Brooks, Wiley/Wales, Brandon Knapp



**The MMBA received a \$1000 dollar donation from the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA).**

IMBA is a nonprofit organization that promotes responsible riding, volunteer trail-work participation, and cooperation among all trail user groups and land management agencies.

Through the course of wide ranging discussions at the IMBA Reps Summit 2000 in Austin, Texas in February, IMBA explained to the MMBA and many other reps at the summit, a developing goal of achieving a more regional presence. The MMBA has been facing a lot of advocacy challenges as a new Parks and Recreation Bureau works out a new multiuse policy for parks in southern Michigan. The \$1000 dollars will go a long way in helping us provide the DNR with the personal contacts and documented information it will need to develop an informed policy incorporating the needs of all those who enjoy Michigan's Parks and Recreation Areas.

**Thank you IMBA** for choosing to act quickly and decisively in reaching out and contributing to the success of those on the front-lines of advocacy. **All those who use Michigan trails thank you!**

## More IMBA News!

### Trail Access Agenda Set at IMBA State Reps Summit in Texas

By Jen Lamb, IMBA

A national report card rating the state-by-state status of mountain biking will be prepared and distributed this spring by IMBA's coast-to-coast network of advocacy leaders. Letter grades - ranging from A to F will be assigned by IMBA reps to each state based on the miles of trail available to cyclists, the general public perception of the sport and land manager's willingness to work with mountain bikers. The first IMBA Report Card will be released this spring.

The IMBA Report Card was one of the many ideas conceived at the IMBA State Representative Summit held February 11-13, 2000 near Austin, Texas. The summit, held at Flat Creek in Texas hill country, brought together leaders of the U.S. mountain bike advocacy community. The three-day event helped strengthen IMBA's network of state representatives and improve IMBA's work on behalf of mountain bikers.

The 2000 State Representative Leadership Summit featured sessions on: Effective Advocacy

Building relationships with other trail users and with land managers  
How to recruit volunteers and nurture them  
How to develop and sustain mountain bike clubs  
Diffusing typical anti-bike arguments  
Mobilizing IMBA's network  
How to raise money for advocacy  
Summit participants also had the opportunity to ride the outstanding trail system at Flat Creek Ranch, including a nine-mile loop that features nearly 1,000 feet of elevation change

IMBA Executive Director, Tim Blumenthal, says, "IMBA's summit is the congress of U.S. mountain bike advocacy. The participants are the people leading the effort to open trails and bring out the best in mountain biking. The energy, collaborative spirit and expertise of this group benefits all of us who love to ride off-road."

IMBA's structure incorporates a professional staff, a volunteer board of directors and designated representatives from each U.S. state and many other countries. IMBA's backbone remains its individual membership of 16,000 and its network of more than 350 off-road cycling clubs."

The next state reps summit is slated for early 2002.

## Attention all women!

Tired of the testosterone-fest of riding with the guys all the time? **Then come on out for the MMBA women's rides! Rides will be held every Monday at 6pm from May through September.** All abilities are



welcome, and nobody will ever get dropped or left behind! Ride locations are listed in the schedule below. For more information,

contact Jody Koch at (734)332-9563 or Carol Johnston at (248)681-2822.

### 2000 MMBA WOMEN'S RIDE SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION
5/1	Maybury
5/8	Bald Mountain
5/15	Island Lake
5/22	Holdridge
5/29	Holiday - no ride
6/5	Brighton
6/12	Pontiac Lake
6/19	Island Lake
6/26	Holdridge
7/3	Holiday - no ride
7/10	Maybury
7/17	Island Lake
7/24	Bald Mountain
7/31	Pontiac Lake
8/7	Bloomer
8/14	Island Lake
8/21	Potawotomi
8/28	Holdridge
9/4	Holiday - no ride
9/11	Brighton
9/18	Maybury
9/25	Island Lake





**MMBA Annual Meeting 2000**  
**Sponsored by**  
**RockShox**  
**CPS Top Finishers and**  
**FAFAL Awards**

*Left members of the Northern Chapter  
 FAFL Winners -*

*Right - Mid - State Chapter.*



*Holly/Flint Chapter FAFL Winners*



*Southeast FAFL Winners*



*Pontiac Lake FAFL Winners*



*Potawatomi Chapter FAFL Winners*



*Western Chapter FAFL Winners*



*(Left) Northeast Chapter  
 President Todd Dewell  
 holds a list of FAFL  
 Volunteer winners.*

Photo's by Lisa Lazaroff  
 and Dwain Abramowski



**Expert Women**

**Shelly Wilson**  
**Shari Hausbeck**

**Jody Koch**

**Elite Men**

**Jeff Weinert**

**Tom Archer**

**Curtis Johnson**

*(sorry a picture was  
 not available...)*



*DNR Answers Questions at the  
 Pontiac Lake booth.*

Picture not available of the great MMBA  
 members of the Southwest chapter of the  
 MMBA . Look for a brilliant pictorial of  
 their generous support of the MMBA  
 through dirtstock and the Fort Custer  
 races in a future BRB. Thank You!



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Petoskey-Harbor Springs-Boyne Country Visitors Bureau.  
 Petoskey, Michigan

(Chatter continued from page 5)

## Mid-State Chapter

New officers are:

President - Jeff Snyder, Adrian  
V.P. - Harv Seeley, Okemos  
Secretary - Gregg Iddings, Adrian  
Treasurer - Randy Blankenship,  
Lansing

A new webpage, created by Harv Seeley, will contain Chapter features such as ride links, trail info., and Volunteer information. To access, click on the Mid-State chapter link from the MMBA website.

There is currently one scheduled maintenance date:  
Heritage Park (Adrian), April 22 at 11:00 AM (Call 517-263-2161 X 272 for info.)  
In addition, a race is planned for Heritage Park on Saturday, May 6th.

## Pontiac Chapter

There are a variety of activities in the works for the Pontiac Chapter, including weekly Women's rides on Monday nights (Times to be determined)!

Upcoming trail maintenance dates include:

Bloomer Park, Patagonia FAFL Trail Maintenance Day, April 29th @ 9:00 a.m.

Pontiac Lake, Patagonia FAFL Trail Maintenance Day, May 20th @ 9:00 a.m.

Bloomer Park, Patagonia FAFL Trail Maintenance Day, June 24th, @ 9:00 a.m.

## Northern Chapter

The Northern Chapter is excited to start this new season that promises to bring the message of the MMBA to more cyclist and trail users here in the northern Michigan area. We recently had our yearly planning meeting and discussed many activities that we would like to do this year. **The enthusiasm was great and the energy level high so we are expecting great things from our chapter.**

First on the agenda are work days. The VASA Single-Track Loop trail day will kick off the season on Saturday, April 1st. This will be closely followed by the Marilla/Dilling North Country Trail day on Sunday, the 9th. On May 6th, we are looking to do some bridge construction that will aid both hikers and cyclists on the Baxtor Bridge section. We will be looking to do some work on the Big M area some time in June. Watch your BRB for additional details.

Another area that was discussed at the meeting was the construction of a booth to increase the level of exposure at functions the Northern Chapter participates in (i.e. Iceman, Big M race, Annual Meeting, ect.). One of our members will be working on a very professional and colorful banner to send the message loud and clear.

We will also be offering something new for members and non-members alike. **Danielle Dennett**, an Expert women racer Sponsored by **Schwinn** and the **City Bike Shop** here in Traverse City, will be offering a skills clinic this early summer. The clinic will consist of woman meeting once a week to ride, socialize, learn new skills, and hear the



MMBA message. All ability levels are welcome with beginners especially encouraged. We are expecting this to develop a pool of female riders that will hopefully grow in the future. There will also be a Men's skills clinic offered for riders by **Terry Ritter**, a Schwinn rider also, racing for the **City Bike Shop**. Both these clinics will be scheduled for the early summer.

The most promising detail covered during the meeting is the expanding participation the **Cherry Capital Cycling Club** is taking in the Northern Chapter. Traverse City presents a unique opportunity with its strong community of both on and off road cyclists. Last year we were able to showcase the chapter at the successful annual spring picnic the CCCC holds. Many individuals have dual membership, and this is something everyone supports. The CCCC puts out an excellent membership newsletter called the Cadence. In the past they have been very generous by publishing MMBA dates and race schedules. They have offered us a format in which to reach their MMBA and non-MMBA membership alike and we are grateful and hopeful that this will expand the membership. **Thank you Cherry Capital Cycling Club.**

This year promises great things. Many cyclists, including myself, are excited about the additional racing that

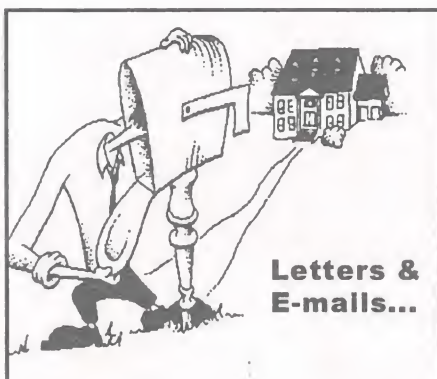
the MMBA has in this part of the state. Hopefully this can aid the momentum that has been created by the dedicated members here in the Northern Chapter and push the message of what the MMBA is about to those "Northermites" who may not know.

## Holly Flint Chapter

Congratulations to **Bob Climie**, this year's **Holly/Flint Volunteer of the Year**. Bob, has been instrumental in the construction and maintenance of Holdridge Lakes, throughout his involvement with the MMBA. **Thanks again...Bob!** As many of you know the **State Volunteer of the Year Award**, has been officially changed to the "**Ed Berta/ First Across the Finish Line Award**." In honor of Ed, who was a member of our chapter and was killed last year as our Chapter participated in an Adopt-a-Road Clean-Up Program Event. His family received this year's award, which was an inscribed Silver Platter. It was presented to his wife, Terri and his daughters, Jennifer and Lauren. Two Platters were sent to this parents and brother, both from Indiana. The Berta's and myself would like to Thank the FAFL Selection Committee and the MMBA Board for this very heart felt presentation. Holdridge Lakes improvements are in the works as Holly Rec. Area finalizes plans for the parking lot. As soon as these are available I'll relay the info to you in our Chapter Newsletter. **Well it happened, my computer crashed...the only serious thing lost was the Chapter E-Mail List!!! Please if you have an E-Mail Address send it to me at rjerrell@tir.com.** Your address is used for Chapter Info only and is a vital means of communication...please send it ASAP! Lastly, National Trails Day is Saturday, June 3rd. 9:30am at the Holdridge Lakes Trailhead. Let's give something back to the trails we ride! And remember you are the MMBA.

Thanks, Rick Jerrell 248.7691  
rjerrell@tir.com

**Thank you very much, Matt, Kowalczyk** for compiling the latest information from the chapters and preparing it for this issue of the BRB. For those members of the MMBA who do not have access to the website, (www.mmmba.org) this publication provides an important link to our MMBA and what is going on in the chapters and around the state. It also serves as a resource and a written record of the MMBA's charitable trail care activities and events. **Thanks again.**



Hello MMBA,

Thanks for helping to make Michigan one of the best states for mountain biking in the USA. I live in nw Indiana and ride in Michigan whenever I can. The mountain bikers of your state are lucky. Do you have to live in Michigan to join the MMBA? If not I'm thinking of joining. I use your great trails as often as I can and I feel that I should contribute. I know it takes money and work to keep the trails open. Please let me know.

Peter Glisic  
SanPierre IN

*ed. Thanks Pete, yes we'll send you an app. right away!*

-----  
Some thoughts on letters....

It has been my experience that

## Have your trail designated as a Community Millennium Trail...

Don't miss this one-time only chance to have your trail designated as a Community Millennium Trail. An initiative of the White House and Department of Transportation, Millennium Trails recognizes, promotes, and stimulates trails and greenways as we enter the new millennium. By registering your National Trails Day event, your trail will automatically be submitted to receive designation as one of the 2000 Community Millennium Trails. For more information on Millennium Trails or National Trails Day, visit: [http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd\\_2000/index.html](http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd_2000/index.html).

form letters do not have as much impact, if any, as a written comment from the pen of the writer. In fact, the letter doesn't have to be that long or full of a lot of words. Just tell them what you would like to say, say it and tell them what you said, that is how the best letters get the point across. Also, as Jason Jones our MMBA president said, it is very important to write an old fashioned letter on paper and mail it. Your thoughts matter, that's why we hope a lot of you write the DNR. Thank you very much for your support. The following is a well constructed letter (though you don't have to write one as long if you don't want to) that was recently sent to the DNR, also listed is where to send your letter:

To:  
MDNR Director, K.L. Cool  
MDNR PRB Chief, Rodney A. Stokes  
MDNR Chief of Operations,  
George Robb  
MDNR PRB, Paul Yauk  
P.O. Box 3008  
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Sirs,

I would like to express my concerns about a proposed plan entitled "Proposed Guidelines and Policies For Single and Multi Use Trails in Michigan State Parks". The plan was written by the "Michigan Horse Council".

I have taken in the splendor of our Michigan trails through the use of my mountain bike since, the MDNR has allowed them. I utilize the trail year round (expect during delicate thaw conditions), on average of 120 days a year. I sincerely hope that I will be able to continue to enjoy my Annual State Park pass and in the future be able to share the experience with my now one year old son. However, I feel that this is in jeopardy due to misinformation, stereotyping, and the selfishness of some trail user groups.

Despite some trail users preconceived, stereotyping, I am a 32 year old, professional, educated, family man. I am not an extreme, out of control, thrill seeker who has no concern for the environment. On the contrary, I routinely participate in trail maintenance events, pack out any garbage I discover on the trail, and routinely perform in-prompt-to trail maintenance. Through ten years of biking, I have only encountered responsible, athletic, fellow bikers who share my commit-

ment to protecting and enjoying our State Parks. These same bikers, despite everyone's natural desire for solitude in an ever expanding population, are always enthusiastic to welcome new trail users regardless whether they are a biker, hiker, or equestrian.

In your development of a Master Trail Plan, please realize that it seems the Horse Council is relying on misinformation and stereotypes rather than facts as the basis for its plan to exclude other user groups. As an example, in its plan the Horse Council states:

"A mountain biker can travel up to 35 miles per hour. This corresponds to 51.3 feet per second. A horse on a trail can trot up to 15 miles per hour, which corresponds to 22 feet per second."

Typically an expert mountain biker on a trail averages 12-15 m.p.h.. Sometimes bikers can reach speeds up to 20 m.p.h. on a trail however, due to a substantially lower momentum, this speed can easily be controlled. A 1500 lbs. horse with rider has six times the momentum of a 200 lbs. rider and bike at the same speed. How fast can 1500 lbs. be slowed?

Other examples of misinformation and stereotyping include: "bikers use the environment to enjoy their vehicles", "bikers are risk takers", and "younger generations are becoming especially interested". Bikers are athletes who want to enjoy the outdoors. I would like to ask the Horse Council what's wrong with younger generations interested in a healthy, athletic, nonviolent sport where they can enjoy the outdoors and how many teenagers can afford a horse?

In conclusion, I believe the Horse Council's plan is ill-conceived as, it is not based on factual information or data. Therefore, I hope you will support the MMBA's plan of responsible, shared access for all use groups.

Sincerely,  
Eric B. Holmes  
South Lyon, MI

## THE CLASSIFIED SECTION

The MMBA classified page is on-line due to popular demand. You can find it at <http://MMBA.org/cgi-bin/DCK/classified/forsale.cgi?0>

And, yes we still take your free member ad info for the BRB. The next deadline is May 15.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Small clouds don't bring Rain**

# 2000

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## MMBA MISSION STATEMENT

To promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.



### ALLEASTERNMOUNTAINSPORTS

stores are having a Club Day. MMBA members will receive 20% off! Bring your membership card or a newsletter (addressed to you) to receive the discount.

They have stores in Troy, Farmington Hills, Kentwood, Traverse City, and possibly others. You can find the closest one by using their store finder on the web.

<http://www.emsonline.com/emsdirect/cgi-bin/mqinterconnect.exe?link=find>

The discount does not apply to their Internet sales. The EMS club date is April 27th, the last Thursday in April. Contact your Local EMS for details.

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"Life is a journey, not a destination and  
a bicycle is a good journey  
enhancing device" R.P.

2 stops,  
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